

SOUTHERN SAY-So

Courier — Pittsburgh, Pa.

Stiff Race Prejudice

By M. S. STUART

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

VENTURE the statement that less than a half million Negroes comprehend the full significance and far-reaching benefits of the legal battles on behalf of race rights which Negro lawyers have won or caused to be won in the courts of the land.

To get into the picture the background of prejudice and difficulty

against which they have had to contend, along with some brief mention of the more important of their victories and of the characters involved in winning them, I propose to write two, maybe three, consecutive pieces on the subject of Negro attorneys. You may wish to remember the connection.



Mr. Stuart

During the past three-fourths of a century some of the shrewdest legal talent produced by the white race in America has concentrated its best thought and ingenuities on twisting and juggling the language in which the laws of the lands are expressed in a way to deny to the Negro the protection and benefits plainly intended. The never-tiring efforts of these sharp practitioners to invent or conjure up plausible looking technicalities by which to cheat that very cause—the poor and more illiterate—which the law is supposed to most carefully protect, have created a stained record in the history of American jurisprudence. The constant attempts to have the same laws seem to mean one thing for one race and quite a different thing for another; the straining to try to wring strange, dual interpretations out of simple words, the plain meaning of which has been accepted for centuries, constitute a record that is as queer as it is discreditable.

TRADITIONS INVIOLEABLE

Yet this chicanery, this legal skulduggery was countenanced, and even winked at by some of the lower courts until Negro lawyers appeared on the scene.

FOR a long time — even yet in many places—there were and are certain customs or "traditions" which few, if any, white lawyers could be engaged to attack, no matter how strong their support in law nor how flagrant the injustices to the Negro. In most places in the South, not until recent years could any white lawyer be induced to challenge any jury on the grounds that it was an established custom to exclude Negroes. For years in the Mississippi Delta, it was difficult to find a white lawyer to represent a Negro share crop-

per, tenant or hired man in a dispute with a landlord about settlement for wages, the sale of cotton or other matter.

CANNOT PRACTICE IN SOME COURTS NOW

So bitter was the sentiment—maybe the present tense is more accurate—against any Negro charged with rape that "The Court" often had to appoint a lawyer to represent the accused, since the law requires that every defendant charged with a major crime must be represented by counsel. In such cases, "the defense" of the accused most often consisted of an apologetic explanation, by the lawyer appointed, of the reasons why he had to pretend to defend the Negro defendant.

THERE were in most of the county sites able and upright white lawyers who could have, and probably would have, sincerely undertaken to defend any Negro charged with crime of any nature if they had dared to face the storm of public sentiment which such a course would most certainly have provoked.

Moreover, there are still many towns, some county sites, where Negro lawyers are not permitted to practice even in uncontested civil matters. It is reported that in Brownsville, Tenn., a Negro lawyer had to get a white lawyer friend to file for him a document which he had taken there to be recorded.

It has been such conditions of prejudice as these that lawyers of the race have challenged. How well they have succeeded will be discussed next week.

SOUTHERN SAY-So

Some Comments on Opinions and

Works of My Readers Pittsburgh Courier

By M. S. STUART

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

THIS piece is by way of appreciation of the opinions of corresponding readers, which due to shortage of clerical help have not had earlier and more personal attention. Necessarily it will be a medley of comment on different matters and viewpoints.

NEVER THE TWAIN

SHALL MEET

That is the title of a little book of "race poems by an all-white author," Irene West, "Ma West," of 2065 West 6th street, Los Angeles. That the author chose to write her thoughts in the lofty



Mr. Stuart

language of verse emphasizes the sincerity of the sentiments expressed in its pages. The Poetry is the Negro race at-large. He said not a Sunday dress of word about what he would do for sincerity. Badly needed by the Negro in these times are white friends who are genuine. "Ma West's" little book deserves a place on the book shelf of Negroes.

THE two little verses, framed under glass (unfortunately broken in transit) entitled, "To A Gracious Lady," our First Lady, by Magnolia Thomas, sent me by T. H. Yeargin of Louisburg, N. C., touchingly record the tender affection with which Mrs. Roosevelt is regarded by the masses of Negroes. But I do not agree with Mr. Yeargin that she needs any advertising at the hands of colored people. Due to her own great qualities and energy she is undoubtedly the best known woman in the world. What she will appreciate more will be the votes of Negroes if her husband becomes a candidate for re-election.

"THE WHITE WORLD"

Miss Ora V. Scott, of Prairie View college, charging that "terminology used is not candid," asks "Where is the great white world?" Well, lady, just about everywhere right now, except Japan, and unless the Japanese cease thinking so much about saving only their faces and turn around and fight, the white banner ere long will be waving over their country, too.

NEGRO LAWYERS

The race owes a great debt of gratitude to its lawyers. It would require far more than a column to do credit to their contributions to race progress. At some later time this space will have more extended comment about their fine work.

A distinguished New York attorney, Eardie John, has sent an outline of the platform on which he is running for Congress from the 22nd (the Harlem) District. It would be a very good platform if he were a candidate from the Negro race at-large. He said not a word about what he would do for Harlem if elected. The first duty of a Congressman is to the district he represents.

THE case of Samuel Legions of Leesburg, Va., shows upon what ridiculously flimsy grounds some lower courts sometimes base verdicts. This Negro youth, on December 8, 1941, was indicted in Loudoun county, Va., for dragging a white woman out of the bed from the side of her awakened husband, then taking her into the kitchen and while raping her there called to the husband to quiet the crying baby, the husband replying that he could do nothing with the baby. Charley Houston, in the Supreme Court of Virginia, secured a reversal of the lower court's conviction.

EDUCATION—RELIGION

Perry Howard is anxious that modern, educated young Negroes learn more about political parties and the mechanics of Government.

IT would be a fine thing if the National Negro Baptist conventions would underwrite at least one-third of the \$1,500,000 the United Negro College Fund campaign is seeking to raise. That would be an indelible contribution in the history of race benefactions.

Capital Court Fight Color Bar Of Bars Negro Chicago Law Society
Call—Kansas City, Mo.
6-23-44

Lawyers

11-16-44

WASHINGTON, Nov 13th

(ANP—Charging that the dis-

trict court here has followed a

"systematic and devised plan to

exclude Negro attorneys from open

membership on the committee

on admission and grievances

of the district court bar." Atty. James J. Laughlin, white, asked the court for permission to file a petition for a writ of mandamus, through which he seeks to force the appointment of a Negro lawyer to the committee.

This committee whose members are appointed by the district judges, passes on qualifications of prospective bar members and hears charges filed against practitioners. There is a large number of Negro lawyers practicing in the district.

Members of the bench, in certain courts, rotate their assignments and each judge has an opportunity to serve as president of the judges for a specified term. On several occasions this honor has befallen Armond J. Scott, the Negro member of the bench here and it is unusual that proceedings to name a Negro member to the committee above, has not been instituted prior to his death.

CHICAGO. — (ANP) — Action of the admission committee of the Chicago Bar association in refusing to approve for membership has broken out into a public controversy which is attracting the attention of the entire legal profession and much of the public. The brunt of the fight to force to lawyers whatever their race or color may be is being borne by prominent white barristers who

are members of the association. er background, said, "These appli-
The colored attorneys includedcants just did not get enough
Earl B. Dickerson, former alder-votes. This is a private organiza-
man, former assistant state attor-tion. It's nobody's business whom
ney general, one time member ofthe organization accepts as mem-
the FEPC and recently a candi-bers."

date for nomination for Congress
Archibald C. Carey Jr., pastor of
Woodlawn A.M.E. church, son of
the late Bishop Carey; Rufus Syl-
vester White, now an ensign in
the navy but who at the time of
his induction was an assistant U
S. district attorney, and Rufus
Sampson, well known lawyer who
is a former president of the Chi-
cago Tuskegee club.

Lawyer Fined, Renews

Defender - Chicago, Ill.

Recruiting Of Voters

Hit Ban On Negro Lawyers In D. C.

5-20-44

Apply For Admission

They applied for admission last fall. They were interviewed, but were given no intimation that there were any reasons relating to their professional standing which might be an impediment to membership. Their applications were sponsored by members in good standing, among them Federal Judges Michael Igoe and William Campbell.

Numerous outstanding lawyers have expressed themselves publicly. Leon Green, dean of the law school at Northwestern university, said, "Personally I can't think of any reason why reputable lawyers, as these men seem to be, should be refused admission."

Wilber G. Katz, dean of the University of Chicago Law school, said, "With many members of the association, I deplore the action . . . the by-laws should be amended so that racial discrimination is stopped."

Ask For Reconsideration

Judge John Gutknecht of the Municipal court, member of the association and former president of the National Lawyers' guild, pointed out that "the body had semi-governmental authority in connection with disbarment proceedings and should be open to any reputable lawyer regardless of race, creed or color." Similar comments were made by Leonard Reiser, Walter T. Fisher, Clay Judson, Frank W. McCullough and other leading members of the Chicago bar.

A special committee of four white lawyers including Herbert Bebb, Mitchell Dawson, Frank W. McCullough and Judge John P. McGoorty of the superior court, has addressed a letter to all members of the association asking for reconsideration of the applications of the four lawyers. The group sent a letter some months ago to the association's board of managers which was never answered. This time they signed themselves as members of a special committee of the Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination.

Floyd E. Thompson, one of the most prominent lawyers in Chicago, and frequently a candidate for high office, is president of the association. Thompson, a native of southern Illinois, with a crack-

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Arthur A. Madison, stocky, neatly dressed, quiet talking, New York attorney, who was convicted and fined \$2,500 for his efforts to secure the ballot for Montgomery county Negro citizens has a well planned campaign to secure a half-million voters in Alabama. He expects to work his plan while awaiting a hearing on his conviction appeal next week.

Atty. Madison, born in Montgomery county, was denied registration some 30 years ago and has been awaiting this day since that time. He returned to his native Montgomery last December and re-established residence through the payment of a license to practice law. He urged the citizens to register and when they were refused filed suit against the boards of registers.

During the heated senatorial campaign in Alabama whites discovered his handiwork and through pressure forced his clients to sign statements that they had not employed Atty. Madison. It was on these grounds he was convicted. When his case comes up next week he will be represented by Atty. A. D. Shores, Birmingham lawyer.

Atty. Madison has organized a "voters league" in Montgomery and a full-time chairman has been employed. Classes are being held every week to instruct citizens how to register and to inform them of their rights under the Alabama constitution.

Under Alabama law every person 21 years of age who owns \$300 worth of property or able to read and write any section of the constitution has a right to register. There is also the requirement of a \$1.50 annual accumulative poll tax from age 21 years except war veterans.

He is aiding the organization of a similar group in Birmingham and Mobile and is meeting success. Atty. Madison says the need for Negro voters is the South's greatest and most pressing problem.

WASHINGTON--Charging that the district court here has followed a "systematic and devised plan to exclude Negro attorneys from membership on the committee on admissions and grievances of the district court bar." Atty. James J. Laughlin, white, asked the court for permission to file a petition for a writ of mandamus, through which he seeks to force the appointment of a Negro lawyer to the committee.

This committee, whose members are appointed by the district judges, passes on qualifications of prospective bar members and hears charges filed against practitioners. There is a large number of Negro lawyers practicing in the district. Members of the bench, in certain courts, rotate their assignments and each judge has an opportunity to serve as president of the judges for a specified term. On several occasions this honor has befallen Armond J. Scott, the Negro member of the bench here and it is unusual that proceedings to name a Negro member to the committee above had not been instituted prior to his death.

Defender-Chicago, 1-1. 11-11-44



HON.
WILLIAM
H.
HASTIE
CHAMPION OF JUSTICE

IN RECOGNITION
OF HIS DISTINGUISHED
CAREER AS JURIST, AND
UNCOMPROMISING FIGHTER
FOR THE RIGHTS OF HIS
PEOPLE, JUDGE HASTIE WAS
AWARDED THE SPINGARN MEDAL
FOR 1942.



JUDGE HASTIE WAS THE
FIRST NEGRO TO SERVE AS
JUSTICE OF THE U.S. DISTRICT
COURT. HE SERVED IN THE VIRGI
ISLANDS.



SERIOUS,
PROGRESSIVE,
JUDGE HASTIE
TYPIFIES THE
NEW LEADER-
SHIP — DESPITE
HIS YOUTH, HIS

RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT IS
NOTABLE: — PHI BETA KAPPA
AT AMHERST, DOCTOR OF
JURIDICAL SCIENCE, HARVARD,
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR, DEPART-
MENT OF THE INTERIOR, — DEAN
OF THE LAW SCHOOL, HOWARD
UNIVERSITY, — U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE
VIRGIN ISLANDS, — CIVILIAN AIDE
TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR, —
AND SPINGARN MEDALIST!!



Age, N.Y., N.Y. 2-19-44
A "Profile"
Of the Latest
Judge Elected
Justice F. Rivers Laid
Foundation for Present
Six N. Y. Negro Judges

By JULIUS J. ADAMS

(This is the concluding article
in an exclusive Amsterdam-News
series on the six Negro Justices
in New York.—The Editor.)

THE rise of Francis Ellis Rivers
to his present position as Justice
of the City Court of New York
County has been both interesting
and inspirational. He was born in
Kansas City, Kansas, on July
30, 1893, a son of the Rev.
David Foote Rivers, a Baptist
clergyman, and Mrs. Silene Gale
Rivers. In 1898 his family moved
to Washington, where he at-
tended elementary and high schools.
He entered Yale University in 1911,

and, although obliged to earn his own tuition, majored in economics, and received his A. B. degree in 1915. He received his Phi Beta Kappa key the same year. The next year he went to Harvard Law School, but left after completing his first year to become an inspector in the Winchester Firearm plant, when the United States entered the war in 1917. On May 27, 1918, a few days before leaving for France, he was married to Miss Lucy Ellen Miller. He attended the Officers' Training School at Des Moines, Iowa, where he was commissioned as First Lieutenant with the 367th Infantry (the Buffaloes). He went to France with this unit and saw active service in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, and other campaigns, later transferring to the 351st Machine Gun Battalion. On leaving the Army Mr. Rivers entered Columbia Law School, from which he graduated in 1922. He was admitted to the New York bar on Jan. 15, 1923. He had some difficulty in obtaining law work until General Sessions Judge Jonah J. Goldstein, then a practicing attorney, took him into his office. Judge Goldstein resigned from the

In 1929 he was elected to membership in the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. He was proposed by the late Louis Marshall and his election constituted the first time a Negro had been admitted to membership in that Bar Association.

Enviably Record

In 1929 Oscar DePriest, then Congressman from the 1st District in Illinois, came to New York and made a plea to the Negroes in Mr. Rivers' district to throw off the old leadership. In that same year Mr



GRAND STREET BOYS' ASSOCIATION gave a dinner party at its clubhouse, 106 W. 55th St., on December 18. More than 200 persons, including some of the city's most distinguished citizens, attended the affair. The party symbolized the slogan of Grand Street Boys', one of America's most liberal organizations. It is "The Grand Street Boys' Association symbolizes American democracy—good fellowship without distinction as to race or creed." General Sessions Judge Jonah J. Goldstein, president of the association, a Jew, arranged the affair; Joseph T. Higgins, an Irish Catholic, was toastmaster and chairman of the committee in charge; Justice Francis E. Rivers of the City Court of New York, was the guest of honor. From left to right, Hig-

Rivers was elected to the assembly directed the Negro voters' division of the 19th Assembly District. He established an enviable record, a campaign in the East. In December, 1937, he was appointed an assistant district attorney of New York County by District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey. His work in the District Attorney's office consisted mainly in the prosecution of homicide cases. He continued under District Attorney Frank S. Hogan when Mr. Dewey was elected Governor, until his appointment last Sept. 13 to fill the City Court post made vacant by the death of Justice James C. Madigan. On November 2, 1943, he was elected to the full ten year term as justice of the City Court of the City of New York, having been nominated by the Republican and American Labor Parties.

He was one of the incorporators of the New York World's Fair in 1939 and served on a number of civic committees. In 1937, he was a member of the Legislative Commission on Condition of Urban Colored Population. He holds membership in the Elks, Masons, Grand Street Boys Club, the YMCA and many other organizations.

Speaking of his election at the annual convention in Baltimore last November, Justice Rivers, who was sworn in for the full ten-year term on December 23, had this to say: "The task achieved by the Manhattan electorate on November 2, 1943, now becomes a challenge to Negroes in other communities and to future Manhattan electorates. Certainly," he continued, "the most fundamental manner in which American citizens can integrate the

He returned to the practice of law, and handled many civil and criminal cases. In 1932 1933 and 1940 he

LETTERS
From the Editor
I first met Pauli Murray a little over a year ago, when she was studying at Howard University to take a try at newspaper work. We didn't have anything open into which we could fit her at the time, so we couldn't give her a job, but I had dinner with her one evening

For the Negro lawyer to compete successfully in the general election arena with lawyers of all other racial groups, it is indisputable that he must have legal training and legal experience which equals or excels that of his opponent. It is not often that major parties will be willing to nominate Negro lawyers for elective offices merely because they are from the Negro group. "It is in the best American tradition that ability should be paramount factor in choosing a candidate," he concluded. Negro New Yorkers, what next!

Big Responsibility

"Dr. Johnson . . . said all the things I believe in. He put his finger on the conflict in my own soul—whether, as an embryo lawyer, I should go South where my services are most needed or West where I believe the air is freest . . . He talked of love for humanity, and he used this single word *love* most often in his address. He talked of the necessity for the North to love the South as it did not do in 1865, and that Northerners should help to remove the stigmas which they have tried to place upon Southerners. He talked of the urgent need for us to try to love, understand and learn to work with the disinherited, misunderstood and poverty-crushed white people in the South, who had never owned slaves even though they might get now as if they did . . . five-



“... What of us to whom he threw the challenge? What of us 149, many of whom have fled the South to escape the dank and suffocating malaria of racial intolerance and oppression.

“Have we the courage of our convictions? We know the needs. Some of us have grown up barefooted in the bottoms of the Southland. Others of us have come up in the slums of the large Northern urban cities. Shall we move into the relatively freer areas where we may have a little breathing space for ourselves and our children, or shall we go back down into ‘Egypt,’ so to speak, and rescue our people, both white and black? Shall we go to Chicago or Harlem to come back Congressmen from black districts, or shall we go down into Mississippi and come back Congressmen and Senators in Bilbo’s and Rankin’s places? Have we got the faith of our fathers and the moral fibre and discipline which our four years or more here should have given to us?

“Shall we leave the South to those who have demonstrated they do not know how to save it, or shall we return to our native land or the land of our

“What do you think?”

PAULI MURRAY

Pauli didn't say what her choice would be, but I know.

Pauli didn't say what her choice would be, but I know.

—JOHN P. LEWIS

Thousands of Negro troops giving their blood and
s on the fields of Normandy for the Four Freedoms
doubtless wonder whether the sacrifices are in vain
en they hear of the rejection of the membership of
r prominent Negro attorneys by the Chicago Bar

EARL DICKERSON

Those rejected are: Earl B. Dickerson, former alderman and assistant State's attorney, and one time member of the FEPC; Archibald C. Carey, Jr., pastor of Woodlawn AME Church and son of the late Bishop A. Carey; Rufus S. White, Jr., formerly an assistant U.S. attorney but now an ensign in the Navy, and Rufus Sampson, an eminent member of the Chicago bar. 6-24-44

Russell Whitman, a former president of the association has vigorously protested the action, stating: "This white supremacy stuff is exactly the kind of thing we are fighting against in Germany. I never get mad because it doesn't do any good, but this matter should be inquired into and the admissions committee should be made to explain why it rejected these attorneys."

FIVE NEGROES PASS BAR EX-

Four of the successful candidates were graduates of Robert H. Terrell Law school, one a graduate of Howard university school of law.

Three of the members are members of the armed forces. They are William Sylvester Thompson, a private in the army, whose home is in Mebane, N. C., and who finished Terrell law school in June, 1943; Verne Franklyn Greene, a captain in the army, whose home is in Baltimore, Md., and who graduated from Terrell law school in June.

The only other Negro to pass the exam was W. Theophilus Jones of Birmingham, Ala., who graduated from Terrell in June 1943, and who was successful on his first attempt. He is working as a messenger in the department of interior.

Anderson Re-elected Bar Association Head

Other officers are John A. H. bler, Little Rock 1st vice president; J. R. Booker, Little Rock 2nd vice president; John H. W. son, 3rd vice president; Sadie M. Alexander, Philadelphia, secretary; L. Marion Poo, Newport News, Va., assistant secretary; William T. Garver, New York treasurer.

Members of the executive board are Henry C. Ferguson, Chicago; John A. Hibbler, Little Rock; Paul Miller, Los Angeles; Charles Anderson, J. R. Booker, C. Francis Stradford, Chicago; Jesse Hoslip, Toledo; Raymond P. Alexander, E. Washington Rhodes, Philadelphia; George W. Lawrence, Chicago; William L. Hurton, Washington, D. C.; Sidney R. Redmond, St. Louis and Eugene L. Taylor, Chicago. *12-15-44*

The executive board at large is composed of I. Miller, Los Angeles, Mrs. Georgia Jones Ellis, Chicago and Henry C. Ferguson. Regional officers are I. T. Dor-

Admit Clayton
COLUMBIA Daily Worker

To Georgia Bar
#27-44

Boston, Reg. 1; James F. Watson, region 14, Los Angeles; Theodore Berry, region 15, Cincinnati.
N. Y., region 2; Fitzhugh Lee M. Berry, region 15, Cincinnati.
Styles, Philadelphia, Reg. 3; Dallas F. Nichols, Baltimore, reg. 4; Louis E. Barnes, Washington, Reg. 5; James F. Reby, region 6 Alexandria, W. Va.; S. D. McGill, region 7, Jacksonville, Fla.; Arthur D. Shores, region 8, Birmingham; F. S. K. Whittoir, region 9, Houston; Ellis L. Outlar, region 10 St. Louis; Rufus C. Kuykendall, Indianapolis, region 11; J. M. Ellis, region 12, Oakhill, Va.; Benjamin W. Clayton, region 13, High School, was admitted to the

A degree in education from Atlanta University and is credited with graduate work done at Columbia University, New York. He received his law degree, LL. B., from LaSalle Extension University, Chicago. His training in Georgia Law was received by hard study under a private Professor of Law here in Atlanta.

Bar by the State Board of examiners of the State of Georgia, Thursday, December 28.

Attorney Clayton took the stiff examination, December 19, and was notified of his passing mark, December 19. During the examination, Lawyer Clayton declared that all of the applicants, regardless of race, were accorded every courtesy by the examiners, and there was no discrimination because of race.

Attorney Clayton holds an A. B. Preparatory degree from Morehouse College; M.

IN OLD CHICAGO

Barriers Against Race
Lawyers Reveal the
Confused Philosophies

Courier - Pittsburgh, Pa.
By JOSEPH D. BIBB

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

CHICAGO'S colored citizenry and a respectable number of liberal white people are indignant and incensed because of the flat refusal of the Chicago Bar association to admit four prominent and qualified colored attorneys to its membership. Non-whites have been denied admittance to this body since its inception. The color line is drawn without

apology or recrimination, even this instant are the Most Reverend Bishop Bernard Sheil, Judge McTear, has been commissioned by the Goorty, Congressmen Dawson and DePriest, Sandburg, Marshall Field, III, Preston Bradley and a host of good people, who hold diametrically different views from those of Floyd Thompson, president of the Chicago Bar Association, and his satellite, John Black. Chicago is a curious mixture of good and evil. Indeed, a strange city where hopes surge high and blue horizons loom; where shadows of despair lurk and men of small soul ply their miserable trades.

D-DAY WILL NOT BE DOOMS DAY

It is here that colored Americans first launched a battle for political and economic recognition and won a fair measure. It is here where the East meets the West and the sentiments of the South blend into the philosophies of the North. It is the land that colored people used to call "God's Coun-North or East, try," but have learned to know that they are still bedeviled by the imps of hell. Chicago, a city of confusion, contradictions and complexities.

THE day of the Invasion, Deliverance and Liberation dawned on Chicago concurrently and comitantly. With the announcement of the undemocratic fascist-tainted action of the Chicago Bar Association, American men of color of the Mississippi Legislature. He was best and marched into the mouth of the hell and into the jaws of death as the Bar Association drew its Hit-Jacob, a fraternal society which

Chicago is a strange city—a city of complexities, contradictions and confusion. Here was the stamping ground of Capone and his still active henchmen; here is the domicile of Hans Haupt, German saboteur; here is one of the most active citadels of the Bundists and the Ku Klux Klan; here are the green pastures of Elizabeth Dilling and the "Red Network" — Chicago, where race riots swept over the streets with bloody sequence, 25 years ago. It is the same Windy City, nestling on the shores of Lake Michigan, where the restrictive covenant hems in colored people like cattle and packs them together like sardines. Chicago, with its picturesque boulevards, mansions, parks and limpid waters—Chicago, with its stock yards, the odors of its smoking, slaughterhouses, filth, grime, stench and three and a half million citizens abiding within the confines in Babylonian frustration.

BUT here trod Lincoln, Dusable, Lovejoy, Ingersoll, Darrow, Medill, Jane Addams and Victor Lawson—all humanitarians and pioneers. Living and breathing at



Mr. Bibb

SOUTHERN SAY-SO

Courier - Pittsburgh, Pa.
Accomplishments of Negro Lawyers

By M. S. STUART

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

THIS WILL BE the last of this series of briefs about the great contributions made by Negro lawyers to racial progress. While undoubtedly all of the Southern States had a number of race attorneys during the past fifty years, Mississippi, it appears, ranked first in this respect.

In Jackson alone more than 15 Negro lawyers had offices during the first two decades of this century, about a dozen appearing at the bar of that city during the same years of the South that period. Affluent into the philosophies of the North. It is the land that colored people used to call "God's Coun-North or East, try," but have learned to know that they are still bedeviled by the imps of hell. Chicago, a city of confusion, contradictions and complexities.

Prominent among the older attorneys of Jackson was the late Louis Kossuth Atwood, at one time a member of the Mississippi Legislature. He was best and marched into the mouth of the hell and into the jaws of death as the Bar Association drew its Hit-Jacob, a fraternal society which

PROMINENT POSTS HELD BY MANY The late W. J. Latham, foremost in the organization of the Underwriters Mutual Life Insurance Company of Chicago, before going to that city was regarded as one of the most capable civil lawyers at the Jackson bar. S. A. Beadle, noted for preparation of impeccable legal documents, began practice as the first partner of Perry Howard in Jackson, later moving to Chicago.

SILAS E. GARNER and Sidney R. Redmond of St. Louis, Mo., the former a distinguished barrister and politician, the latter, former president of the National Bar association, began their profession in Jackson. S. D. Redmond, remarkable father of Sidney, after gaining great wealth as a physician, switched to law and enjoyed a successful practice in Jackson



Mr. Stuart

for about 20 years, returning again to medicine about three years ago, although probably the No. 2 most wealthy Southern Negro and richly deserving of retirement and rest. Most distinguished of Mississippi race lawyers was former Congressman, the late John R. Lynch of Natchez. Of note also was Louis J. Winston, 20 years Chancery clerk at Natchez. The late W. E. Mollison of Chicago was long famous as the most eloquent jury orator of Vicksburg.

It is believed that the only Negro lawyers still practicing in Mississippi are W. L. Mhoon of Jackson and T. G. Ewing of Vicksburg.

THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

The American and the National Bar associations are respectively the white and the Negro general organizations, no attorneys of color being members of the former until recently when two were admitted.

THE National was organized at Little Rock, Ark., in 1909 with Josiah T. Settle, Assistant Attorney General of Memphis, president; Perry Howard, secretary; Scipio A. Jones, treasurer. For a number of years this association was affiliated with the National Negro Business League, meeting at the same time and place every year. But sometime after 1914, Attorney Woodson of Des Moines, Iowa, and Charles Calloway of Kansas City, Mo., led a movement for the organization of an "independent and disassociated National Bar Association." It is now the only National Association of Negro lawyers.

RAISED STATUS OF NEGRO LAWYERS

The following are among some of the accomplishments of the association since its organization: (A) Convinced the public that interest of clients may be as well protected and defended in hands of Negro as white lawyers; (B) That race attorneys will take a more genuine interest in contests involving race rights than white lawyers; (C) That race lawyers are in a better position than others to understand the peculiar features of the legal problems of Negroes; (D) Obtained recognition of

the fitness of Negro lawyers in their appointment to positions on the bench, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, Assistant Attorneys General and to other places of distinction of a quasi-judicial nature.

THE old suspicion that issues of great gravity had better not be entrusted to Negro attorneys is rapidly being dispelled. Hence, the field of law will become more and more an inviting and fascinating one for Negro talent inclined to matters requiring technical attention.

The lawyers appealed to the next Congress to pass the anti-lynching bill, hit discrimination in the armed services as "major obstacles" to Negro soldiers in making their contribution to "the total victory of the cause of the allied nations." The resolution against discrimination in the armed services carried with it a direct appeal to the President as commander-in-chief to "forthwithers to the Federal departments an executive and military requiring attorneys and particularly as Assistant Attorney General fully and completely abolishing and removing all lines of differential of the United States in a resolution on judicial administration. Negro lawyers should be given an opportunity to make their contribution, drawn out of their native ability, training and experience, "to our judicial administration."

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Lawyers Pledge Efforts For Federal Voting Law
CHICAGO—A constitutional amendment embodying a new federal election law which would assure franchise rights to Negroes throughout the country was proposed by the National Bar Association in convention here last week. This far-reaching proposal was included in a resolution, which also pledged that the law, amendment and also sponsor legislation in the various states which will eliminate all discriminatory requirements of voting, such as the poll tax, literacy tests, residential requirements, complicated systems of registration and other devices which are used by some southern states to deprive the qualifications of voters in Federal elections by constitutional right of suffrage guaranteed him urged to appoint some Negro lawyer.

tion through appointment by the President of the United States to the various courts of our land from the supreme court on down," the resolution stated. "Such a step taken by the President of this nation would go a long way toward assuring Negroes generally that they secure real justice in our Federal courts and would inspire increased confidence in our whole American system."

A fugitive felon resolution was adopted by the body as a means of preventing and discouraging peonage in the southern states which often victimize Negroes. A civil rights bill for the District of Columbia is being framed, reported Mrs. Georgia Jones Ellis, secretary of the resolutions committee, along with a fair racial equality bill.

The association also urged that a Negro be among the delegates at the peace conference.

Charles W. Anderson, Kentucky legislator, was re-elected president of the association. Other officers are: John A. Hibbler, Little Rock, first vice president; J. R. Booker, Little Rock, second vice president; John H. Wilson, third vice president; Sadie T. M. Alexander, Philadelphia, secretary; L. Marion Poe, Newport News, Va., assistant secretary; and William T. Garver, New York, treasurer.

Portia Amsterdam News



ATTORNEY SADIE T. MOSSELL ALEXANDER, one of the most brilliant women lawyers of the country, who is secretary of the National Bar Association which will hold its annual session in Chicago Dec. 1 and 2.

The wife of Attorney Raymond Pace Alexander of Philadelphia, she is the mother of two daughters and a leader in both civic and social circles proving that a career woman can also build a beautiful home life.

Woman Opens Ala. Defender Legal Office

BIRMINGHAM—(ANP) — Coming South because, as she states it, "I believe I can do a greater work here," attractive Atty. Jane Cleo Marshall, of Benton Harbor, Mich., Tuesday hung up her shingle here beside that of Arthur D. Shores, this community's lone and much-overworked legal counsel.

Attorney Marshall is a graduate of Howard university, holds a master's degree in political science from the University of Michigan, where she also earned a bachelor of law degree. She is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

As for living in Alabama, she thinks that she is going to like it here a lot. In the field of law here, she thinks that opportunities are diversified and numerous. Her work will be chiefly general legal practice.

Bar Association Defender-Chicago, Ill. Parley Elects

Anderson Prexy

Atty. Charles W. Anderson of Louisville was unanimously reelected National Bar Association president at the concluding session Saturday of the 19th annual convention, at Parkway Community Center, 5120 South Parkway.

The business session was also highlighted by an arraignment of the Chicago Bar Association (white), by Raymond Pace Alexander of Philadelphia, former NBA head.

Rapping the Chicago Bar group for repeatedly denying membership to Negroes, Alexander said it showed "the remarkable disparity between what Americans say and how they act." His criticism of the local group came as he discussed results of a nation-wide survey of local and state bar associations on racial discrimination.

Atty. Earl B. Dickerson, former alderman of the 2nd Ward, former member of the FEPC and widely known for his civic work as president of the Chicago Urban League was another speaker at Saturday's business session.

Dickerson proposed "the integration of all lawyers in Illinois into state and county associations, and denial of recognition by the courts of any group practicing such indefensible discrimination as has the Chicago Bar Association."

Other officers elected to guide

NBA for the ensuing year, included:

Perry B. Johnson, first vice president; J. R. Booker, Little Rock, Ark., second vice president; Austin P. Walden, third vice president; Sadie T. Alexander, Philadelphia, secretary; L. Marion Poe, Newport News, Va., assistant secretary, and William T. Garvin, New York City, treasurer. All regional directors were reelected. Executive committee: Loren B. Miller, M. C. Ferguson and Georgia Jones-Ellis.

Commissioner James B. Cashin, chairman of the board of directors of the Robert S. Abbott Publishing company headed the publicity committee. Attorney Will A. Robinson was chairman in the absence of Atty. Cashin, who is now in Liberia.

Minister Tells Lawyers Make Character Key Of Profession

NEWPORT NEWS — "If you will link to your scholarship and ability a clean reputation you will continue to earn the high regard of all the people," the Rev. J. Metz Rollins told the members of the Old Dominion Bar Association assembled at Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church here Sunday morning.

Recalling the life of the Biblical character, Gamaliel, a profound and learned scholar and a member of the Sanhedrin Court, Rev. Mr. Rollins told the attorneys that they should follow in the path of the "greatest of all lawyers," Gamaliel, who by traditions is known as "the glory of the law."

Reminding the members of the bar that in order to continue



to accomplish success in their pleas for constitutional and economic rights for the Negro, they must persevere in attaining impeccable reputations, the minister said that Gamaliel, because

of the qualities of character, was a man whom the people trusted. "His very life demanded respect, his word carried weight, because the people knew that behind his word was a reputation beyond reproach, a character that could withstand close scrutiny," the minister said.

"The lawyer in the Negro race has a wonderful opportunity to be of great service to his race, if he will not abuse the opportunity. But his work, as seen in later years is inspiring. He has been fighting heroically and courageously in the courts of the land, with the grim determination that the profession must set itself to fight that justice may be meted out to our people."

"The pulpit says to you, fight on—we rejoice in the progress you have thus far made, we urge you to keep up the good fight in order that this race of ours may be treated in the courts of the land not as a Negro, but a man fighting that the scales of justice may not be a mockery, but a reality."

"In that world of tomorrow—in the post-war world—your opportunities will be greater, so will be your responsibilities, for this war will have a backwash, but you may stand in the breach, courageously carrying on, pleading before the bar that justice may be done."

Acting President Cooley Jr., responded, following which Mrs. L. Marion Poe, Newport News lawyer and secretary of the association, introduced all of the members.

After mentioning the extent to which the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments have been executed, good Marshall and Judge William Hastie for their part in the Texas primary case. Other officers elected at the conference were: John A. Hibbler and J. R. Booker, both of Little Rock, and John H. Wilson, son, vice-presidents; Sadie T. M. Alexander, Philadelphia, secretary; L. Marion Poe, Newport News, Va., assistant secretary; William T. Garver, New York, treasurer.

National Bar Association Fights Bias at Convention

Lawyers Meeting in Chi Frame Resolutions to End Discrimination; Re-elect Anderson

CHICAGO (ANP) — The major activity of the National Bar Association, which re-elected Charles W. Anderson of Kentucky as president during its annual convention here last week, was the adoption of resolutions opposing discrimination against minority groups. One of the most far-reaching of them was a proposed Federal election law which would fix the qualifications of voters by Constitutional amendment and would sponsor State legislation which would eliminate all discriminatory requirements for voting.

President Roosevelt was further urged to appoint colored lawyers to Federal departments and one-plaits against discrimination. The presence of a colored man and woman at the peace conference was also the fight against intolerance is "the daily meat of each one of you."

Representative Justice Dept. The chief address was made by Victor Rotnem, head of the Department of Justice, who declared that the only State and Federal protection of minority rights can make the Constitution effective.

Declaring that many of the complaints against discrimination in the South who realize the presence of a colored man and woman at the peace conference was also the fight against intolerance is "the daily meat of each one of you."

Members of the executive board include: Henry C. Ferguson, C. Francis Lawrence, Euclid Stradford, Chicago; John A. Hibbler, Little Rock; I. Miller, Los Angeles; Jesse F. Hoslip, Toledo; Raymond P. Alexander, E. Washington Rhoades, Philadelphia; William L. Hueston, Washington; Sidney R. Redmond, St. Louis. The executive board at large is composed of I. Miller, Los Angeles; Mrs. Georgia Jones Ellis, Chicago; and Henry C. Ferguson. Regional officers are: I. T. Doritch, Boston; James F. Watson, N.Y.; Fitzhugh Lee Styles, Philadelphia; Dallas F. Nicholas, Baltimore.

more: Louis E. Barnes, Washington; James F. Babby, Alexandria, W. Va.; S. D. McGill, Jacksonville, Fla.; Arthur D. Shores, Birmingham; S. K. Whittier, Houston; Ellis L. Outlar, St. Louis; Rufus C. Kuykendall, Indianapolis; J. M. Ellis, Oakhill, Va.; Benjamin W. Clayton, Chicago; Theodore M. Berry, Cincinnati.

CORPORATION COUNSEL



THOMAS P. HARRIS

Harris Wins Fame As Defender- Chicago, Ill Counsel For Metropolitan

2-12-44

By DETON J. BROOKS JR.

Keen-minded Thomas P. Harris, brilliant legal counsel and vice president of Metropolitan Funeral System Association, is a living monument to the sagaciousness of Robert A. Cole, president of this big-time insurance concern.

For it was Cole with his uncanny ability to judge men who picked Harris while he was still a young struggling lawyer and made him legal advisor for rich and powerful Metropolitan.

This was in 1932. Harris, fresh from the University of Chicago law school was "getting his feet wet" in legal practice under the tutelage of the late master counselor Edward Morris. It was in Morris' office that Cole met him and had an opportunity to study him, for Cole went there frequently with his legal problems.

Keen observer that he is, Cole saw that Harris was different than most young lawyers. He was calm and quiet, not given to much talk. He was studious, preferring to keep his head buried in law books. He was not the orating type of lawyer who is at his best delivering an impassioned plea before a jury. But he knew his law, especially corporate law.

With slowly measured words Harris would render an opinion that would later stand up in court. This is what Cole wanted. Not someone who was expert in arguing cases, but rather an advisor who could chart a legal course to keep the company out of unnecessary and expensive litigation.

That he judged his man correctly is evidenced by the way Metropolitan has strengthened itself since 1932 when Harris first joined the company. In spite of the fact that premium income has grown to over a million dollars annually, it is seldom necessary for the company to adjust its complex affairs in court. Harris handles them before they get to that stage.

Strange as it may seem, in view of his success, Harris didn't start out to be a lawyer. As a small town youth in Columbus, Miss., where he was born, he wanted to be a doctor. All during high school and later at college at Fisk university he majored in chemistry in anticipation of the day he would enter medical school. 2-12-44

But circumstances altered this decision and eventually steered him into the legal profession. He spent his summers while still in college working to accumulate enough for the next successive school year. He came to Chicago and at first worked

at hard labor in the Pullman car shops. He even went to West Virginia during the summer of 1918 where he hauled cement to build a World War I powder plant.

Then as he got older and smarter he tried for easier jobs which made it possible to accumulate more money for his summer work. He railroaded.

Travel, his growing awareness of the importance of money, together with the realization that medical school meant long years of sacrifice which he doubted if he could finance, turned his attention toward business. 2-12-44

By the time he graduated from Fisk in 1922 he had made up his mind to try some business venture. He came to Chicago that year with this idea in mind. Friends persuaded him to invest in the insurance business in an embryo concern which was beginning to operate in Pine Bluff and Little Rock, Ark. So he went there.

And it was this venture which led him to study law. Many questions which were legal and which he didn't understand arose. They whetted his curiosity. He found himself spending more and more time trying to find their answer. After four years he came to the conclusion that he must have the legal background to do so. He applied for admission to the University of Chicago law school, one of the toughest in the country, and was accepted. And back to Chicago he came.

Railroads Again

One of the things he had learned in college was how to finance himself. Once again he took to railroading in the summers and worked in a hotel in winters. In 1929 after three years he finished law school and immediately qualified to practice.

Just three years later he got his first big break with Metropolitan, a break he has justified by his performance. In 1934 he was elected vice president, legal counsel and a member of the board of directors. Aside from his work at Metropolitan he has a large private practice. In this he is associated with Civil Service Commissioner James B. Cashin. 2-12-44

Lover of Sports

Harris has kept so busy he hasn't had time to develop a hobby, though he is a lover of sports. During college days he played quarter back and half back on Fisk varsity football team.

As he says, "When I started out practicing I didn't have the money. Now, I don't have the time." But he forgot to add that he can be found home most any evening discussing books with 16-year-old Allen, his son, and his 12-year-old daughter, Norvelle.

And in case no one can find him, just take a look in the nursery where Thomas III, age 18 months, reigns. For it is here that sedate Attorney Harris steals away, gets a sheer thrill while playing with his own progeny, and gets inspiration for the next arduous day.



One of a kind woman harrister in Sierra Leone, Africa. Educated in England, she returned to her homeland last year. En route, her ship was sunk and she lost her wig and gown. Now she has new ones.

5 FROM TERRELL AND HOWARD U. PASS D.C. BAR

Five colored persons were among the seventy applicants for admission to the bar of the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia successful in the bar examinations held June 26-28, inclusive, it was announced this week.

Four of those to pass, including one Portia, are graduates of Terrell Law School; one from Howard Law School.

The Terrell grads are: Miss M. Wilhelmina Jackson, who holds an M. A. degree from Howard and was salutatorian of the '44 class; De Long Harris, valedictorian of class of '44, former Dillard student; Arve Elbe Hancock, Little Rock, Ark., and John J. Spencer, Virginia State, both of the class of '43. 8-26-44

Chicago Bar
Whip - Miami, Fla.

Association Rejects Negroes

Refuses to Change Jim Crow Attitude Despite Shedding of Negro Blood for Democracy

By Don Schuster

CHICAGO, June 13 (PPNS) —

Thousands of Negro troops giving their lives and blood on the fields of Normandy, for the Four Freedoms will wonder if the sacrifice is in vain when they hear of the news from home concerning the rejection of the membership of four prominent Negro attorneys by the Chicago Bar Association. June 14, 1944

No reasons were given by the committee handling the applications for denying membership, through the association's lily-white attitude is well known. The applicants, Earl B. Dickerson, former Alderman, and Assistant State's Attorney, a veteran of World War I, and one time member of the FEPC; Archibald C. Carey, Jr., pastor of Woodlawn AME Church and the son of the late Bishop A. Carey; Rufus Sylvester White, Jr., formerly an assistant U. S. Attorney but now an ensign in the Navy; and Rufus Sampson, an eminent member of the Chicago Bar.

Considerably stirred up over the un-American action of the Bar Association, has vigorously protested, as he stated: "This white supremacy matter is exactly the kind of thing we are fighting against in Germany. Whitman declared, 'I've been fighting racial discrimination for 50 years and I'm going to keep Five Negroes successfully passed everlastingly at it. I never get mad the District of Columbia bar examinations because it doesn't do any good but nations, according to announcements this matter should be inquired into next week. The exami-

and the admissions committee should be made to explain why it rejected these attorneys."

5 PASS D.C. BAR
Defender-Chicago
EXAMINATIONS
4-22-44

WASHINGTON, D.C.—(NNPA)—Five Negroes successfully passed the District of Columbia bar examinations, according to announcements here last week. The exami-

nation was given in December, 1943.

Four of the successful candidates were graduates of the Robert T. Terrell Law School, and one a graduate of Howard University School of Law.

Three of the men are now members of the armed forces. They are William Sylvester Thompson, a private in the army, whose home is in Mebane, N. C., and who finished Terrell Law School in June, 1939; Vernon Franklin Greene, a captain in the army, whose home is in Baltimore, Md., and who graduated from Terrell in June 1940; and Rufus W. Johnson, of Coatesville, Pa., a first lieutenant in the army, who finished at Howard Law School in June 1939. 4-22-44

An unusual case among the successful candidates is that of Oliver Wendell Cooley. Cooley entered Terrell as a special student because he had not met the requirements of a college degree. He is a graduate of night high school at Dunbar in this city, where he finished in 1931. He did such outstanding work, however, that he was specially recommended for taking the bar examination. He passed on his first attempt. He is 41 years old and a clerk in the War Department.

The only other Negro to pass the exam was W. Theophilus Jones, of Birmingham, Ala., who graduated from Terrell in June, 1943, and who was successful on his first attempt.

**CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS
PRAISED BY BIDDLE**
Times - New York 10-5-44

**High Court and Bar Help to
Challenge Fascism, Communism, He Says at Cornell**

ITHACA, N. Y., Oct. 4 (AP)—“The broadening of the field of Federal civil rights,” has brought “a quickened sense of their importance,” Attorney General Biddle said tonight.

“One response in this country to the challenge of the ideals of democracy made by the new ideologies of fascism and communism has been a deepened realization of the values of a Government based on a belief in the dignity and rights of man,” Mr. Biddle continued in an address prepared for a Cornell University audience. 10-5-44

“The Supreme Court has reflected this attitude in the attention it has given in recent years to the application of the due process clause to the protection of the personal rights of individuals.

“The bar, too, has awakened to a consciousness of the importance of civil rights and to the realization that even in a democracy such rights are not self-enforcing.

“The American Bar Association and the National Lawyers Guild have recently established civil rights committees and have participated in cases affecting those rights. Both associations now admit Negroes to their membership.”

Attorney Loses Round 2 Defender—Chicago, Ill. In Ala. Disbarment Case

6-10-44

By JOHN LEFLORE
(Defender Staff Correspondent)
MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Atty. Arthur A. Madison, of New York, but a former Montgomerian, lost round number two to the traditions of the South when on last Tuesday Circuit Judge Eugene Carter upheld a common pleas court verdict of fining the attorney \$500 and disbaring him from the practice of law in the state of Alabama.

The decision was given in the case of Mildred Hardy, one of the five school teachers who are said to have repudiated under duress from whites, Madison's right to represent them in appeal cases to the Circuit Court against rulings of the Montgomery County Board of Registrars, denying them the right to qualify as voters.

The attorney was charged with attempting to act as counsel for Mildred Hardy and four other school teachers without having been retained by them. A number of other citizens on whose behalf Madison filed appeals, stated that he had been properly engaged as counsel to represent all of them, including the five who now disavow his authority to act for them. An irony of the cases is that three of the five who have brought the attorney up against the cold calculating prejudice of southern law are relatives of his. 6-10-44

Judge Carter continued the four remaining cases until next Wednesday. In view of the fact that Common Pleas Judge Lomax Crum had entered identical verdicts in all of the cases, it is expected that the Circuit Court will sustain the verdicts in the cases still to be tried.

Sarah Pearl Madison, a niece of Attorney Madison's, and one of the five involved in the case against the attorney, testified for the state in the Hardy case. Among the defense witnesses were Mrs. Willie L. Madison and General P. Madison, who asserted that the efforts to register colored citizens was part of a two-year-old movement to get a semblance of justice at the polls and that all of the complainants in the litigation were members of it.

Atty. Arthur D. Shores, colored lawyer of Birmingham, represented Attorney Madison. Shores argued that the State had not shown that there was criminal intent and that Madison's purpose was merely to help those who wanted to register and vote to help the community and to make themselves better citizens. 6-10-44

Special prosecuting attorney, R. T. Rives, contended that the testimony “clearly showed” that Madison had not been retained by Mildred Hardy, complainant in the case just tried.

No jury trial was asked. An appeal to the Alabama State Court of Appeals will be taken, Madison stated upon pronouncement of the

verdict. The effort of Madison to break down vote registration barriers in Alabama through court procedure alarmed the white oligarchy. They feel that to do so would be a greater menace to so-called white supremacy than any of the other fights being waged to give the ballot to Negroes and poor whites.

NEGRO CHIEF JUSTICE
Here is a most interesting recent announcement from London: Under the pressure of public sentiment the secretary of state for colonies has announced the appointment of a Negro, Clement Maifone, to the position of chief justice of the Leeward and Windward Islands in the West Indies. Mr. Maifone is shown by his training and experience and his record to be a man well qualified for the position, and this, plus the fact that the bulk of the population over which he will sit in judgment is made up of Negroes, makes it entirely proper that he should be appointed. 6-15-44

With a tenth of the population in America being Negroes, it would seem likewise proper that at least one of the many qualified Negroes in this country should be appointed to one of the United States District judgeships here on the mainland.

**Dewey Appoints
Colored Lawyer
To High Office**
Globe + Independent
Nashville, Tenn.
6-9-44

**Lamar Perkins to
be Asst. Attorney
General of New York
State on June 16**
ALBANY, N. Y.—Governor Thomas E. Dewey's office this week announced the appointment of Attorney Lamar Perkins, of New York City, former state assemblyman, as an assistant attorney general in the office of Henry L. Epstein, Attorney General of the State of New York. Mr. Perkins is assigned to the Department of Social Welfare and takes office June 16. Governor Dewey has thus shattered a precedent since this is the first time in New York State history that three Negroes have been appointed to the Attorney General's Staff to serve at one time. 6-9-44

Other Negroes appointed under Governor Dewey's administration to the Attorney General's staff are Attorney Conrad Johnson, of Harlem, who has charge of litigation claims, and Attorney Stanley M. T. Rives, contended that the testimony “clearly showed” that Madison had not been retained by Mildred Hardy, complainant in the case just tried.

Governor Dewey's unprecedented action in these appointments mirrors his desire to integrate intelligent and capable Negroes for the first time in policy-making positions in state government without cre-

ating “special Negro divisions” and “black cabinets” made up of “experts” and “advisors” on “Negro affairs.” Attorneys Perkins, Johnson and Douglas are thus handling directly the affairs of the state which include those of all the people and in the case of Attorney Johnson, he is handling legal matters involving millions of dollars and Attorney Douglas in the labor bureau is in a position where for the first time a Negro has a direct say in the policies of the state regarding citizens and their jobs.

The fair, unbiased attitude of the Dewey administration toward the nearly 1,000,000 Negroes in this state has also been shown in his naming Assistant District Attorney Francis E. Rivers as City Court Judge, thus opening the way for Mr. Rivers to become the first Negro to be elected to such position. Where all former administrations ducked, or evaded or completely ignored the issue, Governor Dewey made one of the first acts of his agenda when he took office, the appointment of Dr. C. B. Powell as the first Negro member of three-man New York State Athletic Commission which controls the million dollar boxing industry and other athletic activities. 6-9-44

Mrs. Bertha J. Diggs of this city, who several weeks ago was named by the governor as secretary of the State Labor Bureau, was a startling indication of Governor Dewey's idealism in government and established a precedent in that no state let alone New York, has had a Negro woman as secretary of its Labor Bureau. Mrs. Diggs' duties are tremendously important and of major concern to all citizens.

In his new position here in Albany, Attorney Perkins will deal with the vast social welfare program of the entire state. Governor Dewey is developing and will be in a position to render invaluable service to all citizens of all races and colors. Mr. Perkins, a native of Savannah, Ga., was graduated from Lincoln University in 1918 and from Harvard Law School in 1922. He saw service in the United States Army. Admitted to the New York State Bar in 1924, Mr. Perkins was a member of the state assembly from the 21st District, New York County, in 1930, and sponsored considerable labor, social and relief legislation. He was a member of the New York County Republican Committee from 1929 to 1941 and is married and lives at 889 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York City, with his wife and daughter.

**Chicago U. Law Group
Raps Bar Discrimination**
Defender—Chicago, Ill.
7-8-44

A letter, by the law students of the University of Chicago, was sent to the Chicago Bar association last week in protest of the recent rejection of Negro lawyers to that organization.

The University of Chicago group, known as the University of Chicago Bar association, is composed of all

law students at the university's law school. Most of the students are residents of this city.

**WOMAN LAWYER IS
NAMED ATTORNEY
FOR AME BISHOPS**
Globe + Independent
Nashville, Tenn.
6-2-44

PHILADELPHIA—(ANP)—For the first time in the history of the African Methodist Episcopal church a woman lawyer has been elected as the attorney for the bishops' council, the highest governing group in the denomination. Mrs. Sadie T. Mosell Alexander, brilliant young Philadelphia attorney, is the recipient of this honor which in effect will be appreciated by all colored women practitioners of law.

Sadie T. Mosell Alexander is a true daughter of the AME church. She is the granddaughter of Bishop Benjamin Tucker, who for many years was editor of the Christian Recorder, founded the AME Review and during his editorship, made it one of the outstanding publications of America. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law school, class of 1927, where she was a member of the board of editors of the Law Review, being one of the few women ever to serve in such a capacity. She was the first colored woman in the United States to receive a degree from the University of Pennsylvania and her father, Aaron Mosell, was the first man of color to graduate from the law school of the University of Pennsylvania. 6-2-44

She practices law with her husband, Atty. Raymond Pace Alexander.

African Pioneer
Afro American 6-10-44



MISS FRANCES WRIGHT,
first woman barrister and magistrate (temporary) in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Educated in London, Miss Wright underwent the ordeal of a ship sinking while en route to her native home last year and lost the wardrobe which she had so carefully collected, including her wig and gown, now replaced.

Negro Vote Lawyer Put In Jail Here

Arthur H. Madison Of New York Is Arrested For Violating Statute

Faces \$2,500 Fine Montgomery Advertiser Act Forbids An Attorney's

Appearing For Person Without Being Retained

4-9-44

Arthur H. Madison, a New York negro lawyer, recently active in bringing appeals in Montgomery Circuit Court on behalf of members of his race refused registration by the County Board of Registrars, was arrested here last night by deputies of Sheriff G. A. Mosley's office on five warrants charging as many violations of a 50-year-old Alabama statute making it illegal for an attorney to act for a person without being employed.

Madison was removed from the home of a kinsman on Hall Street and locked in the county jail to await arraignment in the Court of Common Pleas early this week.

The warrants, all of which are identical, accuse Madison of bringing appeals from the Board of Registrars' action on behalf of five persons who had not employed him. It was recalled that of the eight negroes, on whose behalf the first batch of appeals were entered, five subsequently came into circuit court and made affidavits that they had not employed Madison or authorized him to take the appeals. Thereupon the appeals were dismissed.

Meanwhile, however, Madison continued to busy himself among negroes who had been refused registration and at the present time possibly a dozen appeals are pending. They are set down for hearing on April 19.

Hill Firm Takes Hand

The firm of Hill, Hill, Whiting and Rives has volunteered its services without cost in defending the cases, that is in acting for the Board of Registrars. A spokesman for the firm who said it had been invited to act following the proffer of its services, added that Senator Lister Hill, who was in Montgomery when Madison's activities first attracted notice, asked his kins-

men in the firm to keep a sharp eye on the situation and, if it seemed feasible, to take some action.

The statute under which Madison was arrested, Code of 1940, title 46, section 55, reads:

"Any attorney appearing for a person without being employed must, on conviction, be fined not less than five hundred dollars, and shall be incompetent to practice in any court in this State."

At the county jail attention was called to the wording of the statute which sets a minimum for the fine rather than a maximum. The opinion was expressed that if Madison were found guilty he would face a minimum fine of \$2,500.

Some interest also was expressed in the effect his arrest might have on the trial of the pending appeals in circuit court, the statute stipulating that an attorney convicted under it would be incompetent to practice.

Warrants Week Old

Following Madison's arrest, it was learned that the warrants were issued by Solicitor W. T. Seibels a week before they were served. Sheriff Mosley said the warrants were placed in his hands on Saturday, April 1, but that when he proceeded to serve them Madison could not be found.

Madison, it was learned, was in the office of the clerk of court on the first floor while the warrants were being drawn in the solicitor's office on the second floor. The opinion was held in some quarters that the New York attorney had got word of the proceedings and had absented himself from Montgomery.

Sheriff Mosley said, however, that Madison betrayed no indication that he knew of the warrants.

Whether he had been emboldened to return by the recent supreme court decision opening the Texas primaries to negroes was a matter of conjecture.

New York Lawyer

Fined \$2,500 On Ancient Ala. Law

4-15-44

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(SNS)—Arthur H. Madison, native of this city, and a New York City lawyer, was fined a total of \$2,500 and disbarred from practicing law in Alabama Friday on charges that he represented five persons in the registration to vote appeals without their consent.

Mrs. Annie S. Banks, John H. Winston, Mrs. Sarah P. Madison, Mrs. Mildred Hardy, and Mrs. Frankie Lee Winston, all public school teachers, testified in court

Friday that Madison handled appeals for them without their authority.

These charges were filed against Madison earlier this week on signed affidavits by the persons who testified against him.

UN-COVERING WASHINGTON



BY HARRY S. McALPIN
WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT
For Atlanta Daily World & N.N.P.A.

A Salute To NAACP Lawyers

4-12-44

Names of famous law cases carve their nick in history and in memory. Less frequently, but often, the names of judges make a permanent impression on the pages of time and recollection.

The infamous Dred Scott decision, rendered in 1857 and delivered by Chief Justice Roger Taney of the United States Supreme Court, is illustrative of the point. Groves vs. Townsend, which the decision was rendered in 1935 by Justice Owen J. Roberts a member of the present Supreme Court is another case in point.

But the lawyers who prepared the cases, poured and sweated over books and documents while "digging out" the law, wracked their brains for the right words and phrases, passed through the ordeal of argument and matching of legal wits, then waited impatiently and prayerfully for the court's verdict—they are too soon forgotten.

NONE COULD SURPASS

Perhaps many other lawyers could have done equally as good a job, but none—white, black, red nor yellow—could have surpassed the effort turned in by Thurgood Marshall and William Hastie who pled the case of Simth vs. Allwright et al.

We remember them now because their legal, civic and national activities keep them in our current public eye—and the case was argued only last November, re-argued in January and decided just last

week. 4-12-44

But ten years from now, only the officers of the NAACP, the students at Howard Law School, a few newspaper men with sharp memories, and Lonnie Smith, the complainant and appellant, will remember the names of these two men as being the brilliant lawyers who won the historic, epoch-changing case out-lawing the exclusion of Negroes from the primaries of the Democratic party in Texas—and perhaps in the entire South.

They should never be forgotten! I swell with pride each time I relive the experience in memory of those two stalwarts, giving the lie to the race-inferiority theories of Hitler and Bilbo and Rankin, belittling the objections of Rep. May (D) of Kentucky to the truth that many Negroes are superior to many whites, as they argued the Texas Primary case before the highest court of the land.

Their diction, their appearance and their legal logic held the nine justices, including Mr. Justice Roberts, enthralled. They failed in only one instance. They were unable to raise the Negro, in the mind of Mr. Justice Roberts, above the status of a small "n." He wrote "negro" in his decision delivered in Groves vs. Townsend on April 1, 1935—when he held, with the backing of an unanimous court, that the Negro was not entitled to vote in the Texas act.

as primaries because a political party could select its own members—and he still uses his small "n" in his dissenting opinion to the 8-1 decision of last week reversing Groves vs. Townsend, nine years later almost to the day. (April 3, 1944). 4-12-44

FINE MANNER DISPLAYED

But if Marshall and Hastie could not convert Justice Roberts by the manner in which they over-shadowed George W. Barcus, assistant attorney general for Texas, who was more of a buffoon than a lawyer before the court, then no one ever will.

I'm all for referring to the Texas Primary case as the Marshall-Hastie Second Emancipation case, so their names will not be forgotten, nor their efforts lost.

If every school child could have sat in the court and heard them, there would be far less hopelessness when he faces obstacles of race in later years.

If every mother and father could have witnessed their presentation of the case to the court, there would be far more incentive to work and sacrifice to give their kids an opportunity.

If every Bilbo-minded bigot could have watched the proceedings, he would have realized the futility of this "white supremacy" arguments. Marshall and Hastie—democracy is indebted to you!

Illegal Practice Laid To Negro Attorney

Montgomery, Ala.

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Trial on charges that he violated an Alabama law making it illegal for an attorney to represent persons who have not employed him was faced Tuesday by Arthur H. Madison, Negro lawyer of New York, arrested Monday by Sheriff A. G. Mosley's deputies on warrants sworn out by Circuit Solicitor Temple Seibels.

Madison, released on bonds aggregating \$2,500—\$500 for each of the five charges—was charged with filing appeals in the Montgomery Circuit Court on behalf of several Negroes who had been denied the right to register as voters in Montgomery County. 4-11-44

The attorney, court records disclose, filed appeals for eight Negroes, and later five of the eight notified the Circuit Court by affidavit they had not authorized Madison to act for them.

The law firm of Hill, Hill, Whiting and Rives has been retained by the Montgomery County Board of Registrars to prosecute Madison for his alleged violation of the law.

Sen. Lister Hill, it was disclosed here Monday, was in Montgomery at the time Madison's activities came to light and the senator is said to have requested his kinsmen who are members of the law firm to

If Madison is convicted, he will be ineligible under Alabama law to practice law in Alabama and, in addition, will face minimum fines of \$500 on each of the five charges. 4-11-44

West Coast May Send Negro To Congress Seat

Atlanta, Ga.

Congress Seat

4-27-44

Lawyer in Los Angeles Running On Demo Ticket

LOS ANGELES—(A N P)—With prospects of his election very bright, Atty. Loren Miller, Democratic candidate for congress from the 14th district, is attracting much interest in his proposed fight for equality in the army and navy.

"There is no reason why the army and the navy should be permitted to deny equality of opportunity to any American citizen and the ridiculousness of such practices is the more apparent because the president's executive order re-

tish magistrate in the police court of Lagos, Nigeria, recently married Richard Marke, an African barrister of Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa.

The wedding was attended by many distinguished official and professional people, including the acting governor of Nigeria, Hon. A. W. G. Grantham, C.M.G. Miss Thomas is the daughter of

to lower the cost of living, favored acts, modification of the "Little Steel" formula, and support of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill, the President's new economic bill of rights and a post-war plan that will develop west coast industries and provide jobs for returning veterans.

First African

Peter Thomas, leading black merchant of West Africa, and sister of Flying Officer Peter Thomas, Jr., the first full-blooded African to get a King's commission in the Royal Air Force. 1-1-44

Called to the British bar at the Middle Temple, London, in 1933, Miss Thomas who was an active member of the League of Colored Peoples in this country, was appointed Magistrate in the Ikeya District of Nigeria in August, 1942. Another of her brothers, Stephen Thomas, is a magistrate at Abeokuta, in Nigeria. Their father was the first African to be elected president of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce.

No. 1 Woman of the Year



JUDGE JANE BOLIN,

who works primarily with children and for their community future in her post on the bench of the Family and Children's Courts of New York's five boroughs, is the AFRO's First Woman of the Year. Justice Bolin was selected because her work, rapidly gaining recognition throughout the country, promises far-reaching reforms in the social service field.

Prospective Negro Lawyers In Ga. Declared Victims Of Bar Examiners

1-15-44

ATLANTA, Ga.—(ANP)—The Georgia Supreme Court Tuesday heard charges that the Georgia State Board of Bar Examiners was discriminating against prospective Negro lawyers. The charge was made by Elmer Ross, graduate of the Northwestern university school of law, who pointed out that he had taken the state examination seven straight times and had been "flunked" on each occasion. Ross, in his argument, pointed out that not a Negro from Augusta had been permitted to pass the bar examination as to handed down for the bar examination board, one Negro law student, Mrs. during the last 30 years. He ex-securing a hearing further in the tion board to give him a fair and Rachel Prudent Herndon, has been explained how, through politics, matter. He named several prominent impartial examination, he will car-allowed to pass. Prior to that B. trickery and technicalities he had met white residents of Augusta, ry the case to the United States J. Davis, Jr., now New York City been pushed aside, mainly because who were certain of his qualifica-Supreme court. 1-15-44

Negro lawyer there.

ALONE IN COURT

The law student, who claims he questioned Ross and then reserved Bethel AME church, sent a letter had maintained a "good average" their decision, which is to be made to the chief executive protesting hearing before the state's highest that he either be certified by the part of the state bar examina-court. He told how he had been supreme court or be ordered the board to prevent Negroes from advised by the bar board to do as through the bar board to take fur-practicing law in Georgia."

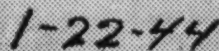
he pleased when he questioned the other examinations. Since Ross began his fight more board about the grading of his pa, Ross disclosed that if the su-than a year ago for a "fair exam-ners and the methods used. He preme court ruling is not favorable ination", at the hands of the state further stated that he had been to his being certified or a ruling

MINISTER WRITES ARNALL

Gov. Ellis Arnall was drawn into

the controversy last week when the

the controversy last week when the



**Tall, Likeable;
That's Justice
Myles A. Paige**

TALL, likeable Myles A. Paige, his Southern drawl distinctly exposing the locale of his birth, sits on the bench of New York's Special Sessions Court, to which he was appointed in January 1940 by Mayor LeGuardia.

Judge Paige was born in Montgomery, Alabama, where he completed his preparatory training before entering college at Fishersville University. He spent two years at the Nashville institution, then went to Howard University where he was graduated in 1921. Three years later he was graduated from the Columbia University Law school in New York City.

at Judge Paige's career on the bench has been marked by constant application to duty, and devoted service to his city and country. Although busy with his work in the Courts and with civic

Four New Freedoms Outlined
Ams Terdam News - New York, N.Y.
By Leading Chicago Attorney

1-22-44

Richard E. Westbrook, a native-born, has been a fixture in the Windy City for many years. More than a quarter of a century ago he and the late George W. Ellis established the law firm of Ellis and Westbrook at 30th and State Streets in the heart of Chicago's Black Belt. Although the population has shifted south, Ellis and Westbrook still stands in the center of crumbling buildings and poverty-stricken people.

In those days Dick was something of a playboy himself. He liked his cocktails, but he could take it. Time, protesting his innocent eventually, however, has been on the wagon except for night in 1930. Two others of the milk for night onto fifteen years. The three re-
cently while in New York on maining' went to prison.

Bar Association's convention in 'Mr. Westbrooks' most celebrated



RICHARD E. WESTBOOKS

United States. It was the case in which Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell sued the Pullman Company and the Rock Island Railroad, after he was forced to ride in a jim crow car from Memphis to Hot Springs, Ark.

The political bug has buzzed in Dick's bonnet, but it seems he was never quite stung. He was reported once as being interested in running for Congress, but he never entered the race. 1-22-44

Four New Freedoms!

In his New Year's greetings to his friends, this year, Mr. Westbrook outlined a new program of Ellis and Westbrook. In it, he said, "We have dedicated our lives to the Four Freedoms," which he lists as follows:

1. Freedom from discrimination.
2. Freedom from disfranchisement.
3. Freedom from mob violence.
4. Freedom of equality in education, employment, modern housing and in all phases of economic and political life.

Known as "Fighting Dick" Westbrook from Texas, this Chicago lawyer is known to New York courts. He was here several years ago and created quite a stir in Federal Court as counsel for a defendant charged with violation of the Mann Act. 1-22-44

Strictly cosmopolitan and a lover of good living, Mr. Westbrook likes to travel, and whenever he is on a jaunt he usually takes with him two trunks of clothes. Except for a slight limp in his walk as a result of an automobile accident in which he suffered a broken leg, Mr. Westbrook is as active as a man in his early 30's, although Dick must be more than twice that age. Aside from his manifold legal and civic obligations, Mr. Westbrook finds time to serve as resident consul for the Republic of Liberia.

Those who know him well, rate Dick Westbrook a good guy.

—JULIUS J. ADAMS



A GOOD JUDGE and a fine citizen, Justice Hubert T. Delany is truly a home man; also a devoted husband and father. Here he is shown with his family. Left to right, William, adopted son, Mrs. Delany, the justice and their other children, Harry and Madelon Mickey Delany.

Justice Delany Active in and Out of Court

NC-Born Ex-Pastor Becomes Fifth Negro to be Elevated to Bench in New York City

(Ed. Note: This is the sixth article in a series on New York's six Negro Justices.)

By JULIUS ADAMS

NORTH CAROLINA-born Hubert T. Delany, who started out to be a preacher, was the fifth Negro to be elevated to the bench in New York City, having been appointed to the Domestic Relations Court by Mayor LaGuardia August 1, 1942.

From the time he came to the city, in 1919, until his appointment to the bench, Hubert Delany has had an interesting and a remarkable career. Sincere, conscientious and painstaking, he has constantly maintained an interest in the welfare of the little fellow, recalling the days when he worked as a Red Cap at the Pennsylvania Station to pay his way through college. Perhaps his greatest public interest now is trying to adjust family difficulties, or to steer some delinquent child back on the straight and narrow path.

One of ten children of Bishop and Mrs. Henry B. Delany, Hubert spent a greater part of his childhood and youth at St. Augustine, College in Raleigh, N. C., where he was born. He entered the College of the City of New

York soon after arriving here but feels that many youngsters and was graduated in 1923. Three years later he received his law degree at New York University, and after a brief period of private practice was appointed assistant United States attorney by Charles H. Tuttle, holding that post from 1927 until 1933.

Delany made a bid for Congress in 1929 when he ran on the Republican ticket in the 21st District. He was beaten, but it was in that campaign that he met and became close to LaGuardia, who also was beaten that year in his race for Mayor. LaGuardia, however, was victorious four years later in the year 1933.

Long before he was elevated to the bench, Mr. Delany had been interested in the welfare of children. This was in evidence, particularly during the three years he was a teacher at P. S. 5. As a result of his keen and personal interest, and his vast experience, Justice Delany has become widely known and respected for his social vision and sympathetic approach to the problems of children. His advice is eagerly sought by many individuals and organizations on matters of juvenile care.

Justice Delany said he has seldom seen a truly bad child. "It is my opinion," he said, "that any person who doesn't like children, or who believes most children are bad, has no place in the school system as a teacher or should be in a position to pass judgment upon so-called problem children." 2-5-44

Justice Delany blames broken homes for some of the delinquency,

but feels that many youngsters may be saved if they can be made to feel they are wanted, that they have friends. It is our purpose in the Domestic Relations Court to see that our children shall not lose hope.

"While I realize that there are many economic and social conditions which are responsible for the delinquency of children in our community; and that there are conditions which prevent them from becoming adjusted to the demands of society," Justice Delany said, "yet I feel that the citizens and the parents of our community cannot overlook their responsibility toward their children.

"The grown-ups of the community must teach their children respect for law and order," he said, "so that all decent and law-abiding citizens will not be classified as persons who have no respect for the law."

The justice's love for children and the family is evidenced by his devotion to his wife and two children. It is no wonder he is such a fine justice in the Domestic Relations Court.

Although occupied the greater part of the day, and frequently into the night with court assignment, Justice Delany keeps a busy schedule of civic activities. He is constantly pressed into service as a speaker on discrimination and race relations. 2-5-44

While he is a member of a dozen or more organizations, he is perhaps most active as a member of the boards of the following: The YMCA, the NAACP, the National Urban League, the Wiltwyck school for boys, the USO, the National Lawyers Guild and the Citizens

Madison Appeals Vote Case To Circuit Court

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(S. N. S.)

—Arthur H. Madison, Montgomery-born New York lawyer, who on April 14 was fined \$2,500 and disqualified to practice law in Alabama, for allegedly violating an obscure, 50-year-old Alabama statute, took an appeal to Circuit Court here April 19.

Madison, who pleaded his own case when he said that he could not get legal counsel, was charged by the state with representing five Montgomery school teachers without their consent, when he filed appeals for them after the board of registrars refused to register them. The teachers signed affidavits and testified on the stand that Madison had no authority to represent them. The Case was heard before Common Pleas Judge Crum. Eight other cases of the same group were thrown out by Circuit

Judge Jones April 19 on grounds that the legal period of 30 days after presenting ones self for registration had expired when the petitions were filed. Attorney Arthur D. Shores of Birmingham, took up the eight cases as Madison bowed out due to his status created by the conviction. Madison indicated that the fight for the ballot would not relax and that even a larger number would apply at the board's next session scheduled for June 12.



ALTHOUGH SOCIALLY PROMINENT, the Delany's entertain only occasionally and go out with equal infrequency. When the Riverdale Orphan Asylum committee invited Mrs. Roosevelt to its tea last winter it chose the Delany home in West 144th Street as the place for the gathering. Here the Justice and Mrs. Delany greet Mrs. Roosevelt at their home on the occasion.

City-wide Committee on Harlem. Justice Delany is an indefatigable worker, a competent and courageous judge... a credit to his race and his country. (NEXT WEEK: The concluding article on New York's six Negro Justices. Francis E. Rivers of the City Court will be the subject.)

36-1944

Ga. Court Rejects Negro Plea to Practice Law

2-15-44

By George Lee
(Special to the Daily Worker)

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 14.—George Elmer Ross, a Negro of Augusta, Georgia, has again been refused admittance to the Georgia Bar.

In a unanimous decision, the Georgia Supreme Court justice upheld the discriminatory action of the State Board of Bar Examiners who refused to grant Ross license to practice law.

Mr. Ross, who is a graduate of the Chicago Law School, has been trying since 1939 to gain admission to the Georgia Bar.

The law requires the Board to certify applicants who make a grade of 70 per cent or more. Ross claims to have made a better grade than 70 per cent on an examination taken in December, 1942, and brought action in the Fulton Superior Court here to compel the Board of Examiners to show cause why they had refused to certify him to the Richmond Superior Court as entitled to a law license.

In the anti-democratic decision reached Tuesday, the Georgia Supreme Court upheld Judge Frank A. Hooper, Jr., of the Fulton Superior Court, in dismissing mandamus proceedings brought by Mr. Ross and the Court declared that the members of the Board of Examiners are the sole judges of grades and that there is no appeal from their decision.

"A mandamus writ will not control a (public) officer in the exercise of his discretion," asserted the Justices, "but will only require such officer to act."

Ross, who said he was a graduate of the Chicago Law School and had been trying since 1939 to gain admission to the Georgia Bar, alleged he made a better grade than 70 per cent on an examination taken in December, 1942, but that the Board had refused to certify him to the Richmond Superior Court as entitled to a law license.

This dangerous ruling gives the Board the authority and power to deny or grant licenses to practice professions, regardless of actual passing examination grades, and abolishes the applicants' rights to appeal from their decisions.

Mr. Ross, who lost another suit in the Supreme Court last September, brought this present action in the Fulton Superior Court as John M. Slaton, chairman of the Board of Examiners resides here in Fulton County.

Rome, Ga., New Tribune

February 9, 1944
Negro Loses Move to Force Bar Admission

ATLANTA, Feb. 9.—(AP)—An

Discrimination In Examinations

George Elmer Ross, well known law college graduate of a reputable college of national recognition, and a resident of Augusta, Georgia for a long number of years, argued his case of discrimination on the part of the Georgia State Bar Examination refusing to pass on his examination papers seven consecutive times, on Tuesday morning before the Georgia Supreme Court in the State Capitol.

LETTER SENT ARNALL

Last week a letter was sent to Governor Arnall urging that he look into the matter involving the right of a Negro citizen of Augusta to be permitted to practice in courts there by Rev. A. R. Cooper, pastor of Bethel AME Church, a practice which has existed in Augusta for more than 30 years. The letter stated that each time a Negro applicant has stood these examinations in the city of Augusta or the county, he has failed and it was emphasized that these failures of Negroes passing the exams have not been due to academic nor legal training, because some of these applicants have been found to be well qualified.

Ross stated in his argument before the Supreme Court Tuesday that he had been flunked seven times in successive years, and that the last time he took the test was December 16, 1942. He explained how through politics, trickery and technicalities he had been pushed aside, mainly because whites in Augusta do not want a Negro lawyer there.

ROSS IS ALONE

The brilliant law student, who was alone at the hearing before the state's highest court told how he had been advised by the bar board to do as he pleased when he questioned the board about the grading of his papers and the methods used. He further stated that he had been given the wrong information as to securing a hearing further in the matter. He named several prominent white residents of Augusta who were certain of his qualification, and presented affidavits affirming their claims.

The Supreme Court listened with much interest, questioned Ross and then reserved their decision, which will be made known later. Ross is contending that he be certified by this court or ordered through the bar-board to take further exams.

Ross told a WORLD reporter that of the findings by the Ga. high court are not favorable to his being certified or a ruling made for the bar board of the state to give him a fair and impartial examination, he will carry the case to the Supreme Court of the United States. He stated that he was thoroughly convinced that his case was based solely on politics and discrimination.

Law Graduate Loses Appeal

Daily World
Sought To Force License To Bar
2-9-44

George Elmer Ross, Augusta Negro law school graduate from the Chicago Law School failed again Tuesday in Georgia's Supreme Court in his effort to force the State Board of Bar Examiners to grant him a license to practice law.

In a unanimous decision, the justices upheld Judge Frank A. Hooper, Jr., of the Fulton Superior Court in dismissing mandamus proceedings brought by Ross to compel the board to show cause why he should not be admitted to the bar.

The court said that while the law requires the board to grade examination papers and to certify applicants who make a grade of 70 per cent or more, the members are the sole judges of grades and there is no appeal from their decision.

"A mandamus writ will not control a (public) officer in the exercise of his discretion," asserted the Justices, "but will only require such officer to act."

Ross, who said he was a graduate of the Chicago Law School and had been trying since 1939 to gain admission to the Georgia Bar, alleged he made a better grade than 70 per cent on an examination taken in December, 1942 but that the board had refused to certify him to the Richmond Superior Court as entitled to a law license.

He lost another suit in the Supreme Court last September, and then brought the present action in the Fulton Superior Court, since the chairman of the Board of Examiners, John M. Slaton, resides here.

transmitting to Ross the number he had selected as his choice, ignored that number, substituting thereof another number. This made a mistaken identity of the papers. Ross immediately called the court's attention to this mistake; the court, at the request of Ross, wrote the examiners requesting them not to destroy the papers until the identity of the papers could affirmatively be established.

"Ross, within five days after receipt of the certificate of failure, notified the examiners of the mistake and requested them not to destroy his papers; the board acknowledged receipt of his notice but advised him to take whatever steps he saw fit, but the papers in accordance with a thirty (30) year old custom, had already been destroyed."

FILES SUIT

"Upon this advice, Ross instituted proceedings for admission to the bar, supporting his proceedings by testimony of a witness who had been

failures have not been due to academic nor legal training, for some of these Negro applicants have been well qualified."

ROSS CASE, CITED

"The most recent of these failures is centered around one, George Elmer Ross, of Augusta. Ross has met with this failing process of force here, on seven consecutive occasions. The last time he stood this examination was Dec. 16, 1942. At that time, according to the rules, Ross selected number 10 as his choice for the proper identification of his papers, and expressed that number by Roman numeral X. When the grading of the papers had terminated, the examiners, instead of

Governor Gets Protest Over Failure To Qualify Lawyers

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga. 1-1-44

Augusta Minister Points To Failure to Let Students Pass

Upon a thorough investigation, I have found, to my regret, that for more than thirty (30) years no Negroes, on account of unseen powers, have been permitted to pass the Georgia State Bar examination with a view of opening and maintaining offices in this city. Each time a Negro applicant has stood these examinations in city and county (meaning Augusta), he has failed. I'm convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt that these

Governor Arnall has been asked more than thirty (30) years no Negroes, on account of unseen powers, have been permitted to pass the Georgia State Bar examination with a view of opening and maintaining offices in this city. Each time a Negro applicant has stood these examinations in city and county (meaning Augusta), he has failed. I'm convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt that these

The letter to the governor said in part in making the complaint, or he has failed. I'm convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt that these

an applicant seeking admission to the Georgia Bar, and who had stood the examination at Louisville, Ga., under date of May 13th, 1942. At the hearing, I listened to this witness testify that the examination was purposely transferred to Louisville, Georgia for the purpose of discriminating against Ross. She further testified how the examination was conducted including a number of irregularities; how the other white applicants had been previously instructed what the outcome of the grading of the examination papers would be insofar as Ross was concerned. She did not hesitate to admit that Ross was an extraordinary scholar, even better qualified to practice law than she. The court listened with profound interest only to discount her testimony later. Ross then carried his case to the Supreme Court, but found no relief there although the court intimated that he had instituted the wrong proceedings, suggesting that his remedy was by writ of mandamus against the board. Complying with this suggestion, Ross applied to the proper court for this writ only to have it denied. This place his case again before the Supreme Court for argument on Jan. 4th, 1944."

Kentucky Lawyer Advertiser-Montg. Speaks Sunday Ala.

Attorney Charles W. Anderson, of Louisville, Ky., member of the Kentucky State Legislature since 1936, arrived in the city Tuesday night and filled a speaking engagement at Tuskegee Wednesday Sunday night at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. He will be the speaker on the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity public meeting in celebration of its annual education for citizenship week.

The Sunday program begins at 7:30 p. m. and the general public is invited to attend, admission free. 4-28-44

Mr. Anderson in addition to being a successful lawyer in Louisville and member of the Legislature is prominent in the civic and religious life of that city. He holds key positions in national legal organizations and is regarded as one of the most outstanding legal minds in the race. He is an interesting and convincing speaker and his coming to the city is an outstanding event of the year.

A. Madison, a New York colored lawyer, was fined \$500 and held incompetent to practice in Alabama last week by Judge Eugene Carter of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court.

Judge Carter, hearing the case without a jury, upheld an original verdict handed down by the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court. Madison was charged with attempting to act as counsel for clients who had not engaged him, in efforts to register Negro voters. 6-3-44

FOUGHT IN COURT

Officials brought about Madison's arrest after he had gone to court seeking to compel registration of several Negro poll tax payers. A group of these Negroes were later intimidated in signing a statement declaring they had not engaged Madison to represent them, it is stated.

Woman Lawyer Is Daily World-Atlanta, Ga. Given Position

1-14-44

CHICAGO.—(ANP)—Recently appointed by Mayor Edward J. Kelly, Mrs. Georgia Ellis Jones, one of the four Negro women lawyers in the NAWL, Friday assumed the duties as an assistant corporation counsel. Earnest Hodes, corporation counsel, has assigned her to the appeals and review division.

Mrs. Jones was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1936, and five years later the U. S. District court accepted her as an attorney. In 1941 she was admitted to the supreme court of the United States. Also Mrs. Jones was the first Negro woman to become an adjudicator in the court of domestic relations. The new appointee is a member of the law firm of Ellis and Westbrook of the committee. Labor leaders brook.

Lomax Crum. Madison did not indicate whether he would appeal.

Demand Chicago Bar Assn. Admit Negroes

CHICAGO, June 9.—Four prominent Negro attorneys today demanded that the Chicago Bar Association reconsider its recent decision to bar them from membership.

The protest was lodged by Russell Whitman, former president of the association and former judge of the Superior Court, who termed the Bar Association Committee's decision "ghastly." 6-10-44

The signers of the demand that the Bar Association reconsider its action, were: Herbert Bebb, Mitchell Dawson, Frank W. McCulloch and Judge John P. McGoorty of Superior Court.

Negro Lawyer Free Under \$5,000 Bond

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—Arthur A. Madison, New York Negro attorney convicted of purporting to represent five Negroes in vote registration cases without having been employed by them, was free Saturday under \$5,000 bond.

The lawyer was fined \$2,500 Friday and barred from practice in Alabama by Common Pleas Judge

N. Y. Lawyer Journal + Guide Fined \$500 Norfolk, Va. 6-3-44 In Alabama

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Arthur

36-1944

Daily Negro National Bar Week

The phenomenal rise of the Negro lawyer in power, prestige and influence before the American bar is one of the healthy signposts of Negro progress and social advance in this nation. Coming upon the scene at an era in American development when the moral and intellectual consequences of slavery were at their worst, the Negro lawyer not only had to grapple with and overcome the problems and prejudices incident to his acceptance before the courts, but he likewise felt the bitter sting of racial distrust, due to the widespread belief among most Negroes then, that a Negro lawyer, however brilliant, could not win justice for his clients before a court of law. 5-2-44

Happily today, at least for the most part, that impression has been dispelled and removed. By sheer intellectual acumen and strong determination and perseverance, has won confidence and enjoys a wholesome and healthy respectability among his Negro clientele. Of the 1424 Negro lawyers scattered throughout America, there are 11 outstanding judges, 24 state Senators and representatives, scores upon scores of lesser office holders in one or another form, with a large number of others filling civil service appointments in northern and western cities. There is one Negro congressman, William L. Dawson, at Washington.

In the field of social justice the Negro lawyer has made his most impressive record. Of the 17 cases tried before the United States Supreme Court, Negro lawyers have argued most of them and have failed in only two instances of returning with victories for their clients. The "equal pay suits" for Negro teachers have been consistently argued and won by Negro lawyers. 5-2-44

Thus, as they approach their observance of National Bar Week, May 14, colored Americans will join with them in recounting and reviewing the great service they have given and are continuing to give to our people. For indeed the Negro lawyer occupies an honored and cherished place in the hearts of all colored Americans, acquainted with their successes and struggles before the courts of justice.

National Bar Journal + Guide Plans Militant 1944 Program

1-15-44
Dickerson Named Chairman Civil Rights Committee

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Charles W. Anderson, Jr., local lawyer and recently elected president of the National Bar Association at its annual convention in Baltimore, announced this week a militant program of 12 objectives which the association plans to accomplish during the ensuing year. These objections are:

1. Publication of the National

National Bar Association

al opportunities for all Negro children and adults. 9. Enactment of legislation to secure and safeguard the civil rights and repeal of legislation hostile to the welfare of the race. A vigorous fight against the poll tax system in the south. 1-15-44

10. Abolition of discrimination in housing, recreation and hospital facilities. 11. Improvement of the economic and ethical standards of the bar. 12. A vigorous campaign against discrimination in the armed forces and for the complete integration of the Negro in all branches of the armed forces of the United States.

Sidney R. Redmond, former president of the association and now on the staff of the law department of the City of St. Louis, Mo., has been named editor of the Bar Journal.

Earl B. Dickerson, Chicago lawyer and former member of the FEPC, has been named as chairman of the Civil Rights committee. Others named to the committee are:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

B. V. Lawson, Washington, D. C.; S. D. McGill, Jacksonville;

Albert C. Gilbert, New York; Raymond Pace Alexander, Philadelphia; Chester K. Gillespie, Cleveland; A. T. Walden, Atlanta; Henry D. Epsy, St. Louis; W. Harold Flowers, Arkansas; Z. Alexander Looby, Nashville; Judge James A. Cobb, Washington, D. C.; and W. A. C. Hughes Jr., Baltimore.

Henry J. Richardson Jr., Indianapolis attorney and former member of the Indiana Legislature, was reappointed director of the legal aid bureau.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

The President announced the appointment of the following regional and deputy regional directors of the association: 1-15-44

Iwin T. Dorch, and J. Bruce Robinson, Boston, Mass.; Judge James S. Watson, New York; J. Bernard Johnson, Newark, N. J.; Dallas F. Nicholas, Baltimore, Md.; Lewis Edwin Barnes and Sandolphara Robinson, Washington, D. C.; James H. Raby, Alexandria, Va.; S. D. McGill, Jacksonville, Fla.; Arthur D. Shores, Birmingham, Ala.; F. S. K. Whittaker, Houston, Tex.; Henry McK. Rowan, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Ellis L. Outlaw, St. Louis, Mo.; Rufus C. Kuykendall, Indianapolis, Ind.; J. M. Ellis, Oak Hill, W. Va.; Benjamin W. Clayton, Chicago, Ill.; James W. Dorsey, Milwaukee, Wis.; Bert McDonald, Los Angeles, Cal.; Theodore M. Berry, Cincinnati, Ohio; and William L. Colden, Detroit, Mich.; W. Justin Carter Jr., Harrisburg, Pa.

Mrs. Sadie T. Mossell Alexander, prominent Philadelphia attorney and newly elected secretary of the N.B.A. will have charge of the publication of the Lawyers directory. The last N.B.A. directory was published in 1932.

Bar Journal and the publication of the first Negro Lawyers' directory in 12 years. 2. Continuation of the legal aid bureau to assist those without funds. 3. Establishment of an active, militant and functioning Civil Rights committee for the purpose of attacking and fighting segregation and discrimination directed at the Negro in the several states of the union.

ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES

4. A vigorous campaign for the abolition of segregation and discrimination in transportation facilities in southern and border states. 5. To obtain increased representation for Negro lawyers on the state and federal judiciary and on the legal staffs of federal, state, county and city prosecutors, to insure the impartial administration of justice. 6. Closer cooperation between the National Bar Association and those organizations whose objective is to promote the welfare of the race.

7. Abolition of discrimination by all federal and state agencies. 8. To wage a vigorous campaign in every state for equal education-

Lawyers' Group Opens Militant 1944 Program

LOUISVILLE. — (ANP) —

Charles W. Anderson Jr., Louisville lawyer and recently elected

president of the National Bar Association at its annual convention in Baltimore, announced this week a militant program of 12 objectives which the association plans to accomplish during the ensuing year. 1-14-44

1. Publication of the National Bar Journal and the publication of the first Negro lawyers' directory in 12 years.

2. Continuation of the legal aid bureau to assist those without funds.

3. Establishment of an active, militant and functioning civil rights committee for the purpose of attacking and fighting segregation and discrimination directed at the Negro in the several states of the union.

4. A vigorous campaign for the abolition of segregation and discrimination in transportation facilities in southern and border states.

5. To obtain increased representation for Negro lawyers on the state and federal judiciary and on the legal staffs of federal, state, county and city prosecutors, to insure the impartial administration of justice.

6. Closer cooperation between the National Bar association and those organizations whose objective is to promote the welfare of the race.

7. Abolition of discrimination by all federal and state agencies.

8. To wage a vigorous campaign in every state for equal educational opportunities for all Negro children and adults.

9. Enactment of legislation to secure and safeguard our civil rights and repeal of legislation hostile to the welfare of the race. A vigorous fight against the poll tax system in the south.

10. Abolition of discrimination in housing, recreation and hospital facilities. 1-14-44

11. Improvement of the economic and ethical standards of the bar.

12. A vigorous campaign against

discrimination in the armed forces and for the complete integration of the Negro in all branches of the armed forces of the United States.

Sidney R. Redmond, former president of the National Bar association and now on the staff of the law department of the city of St. Louis, has been named editor of the Bar Journal.

Earl B. Dickerson, prominent Chicago lawyer and former member of the FEPC has been named chairman of the civil rights committee which will take the leadership in attacking and fighting segregation and discrimination directed at the Negro in various states of the union and especially in transportation facilities and discrimination in the armed forces. 1-14-44

Those named to the civil rights committee are: B. V. Lawson, Washington; S. D. McGill, Jacksonville; Albert C. Gilbert, New York; Raymond Pace Alexander, Philadelphia; Chester K. Gillespie, Cleveland; A. T. Walden, Atlanta; Henry D. Epsy, St. Louis; W. Harold Flowers, Arkansas; Z. Alexander Looby, Nashville; Judge James A. Cobb, Washington, and W. A. C. Hughes Jr., Baltimore. Henry J. Richardson Jr., Indianapolis attorney and former member of the Indiana legislature, was re-appointed director of the legal aid bureau.

The president announced the appointment of the following regional and deputy regional directors of the Association.

Irwin T. Dorch, Boston; J. Bruce Robinson, Boston; Judge James S. Watson, New York; J. Bernard Johnson, Newark; Dallas F. Nicholas, Baltimore; Lewis Edwin Barnes, Washington; Sandolphara Robinson, Washington; James H. Raby, Alexandria, Va.; S. D. McGill, Jacksonville; Arthur D. Shores, Birmingham; F.S.K. Whittaker, Houston; Henry McK. Rowan, Oklahoma City; Ellis L. Outlaw, St. Louis; Rufus C. Kuykendall, Indianapolis; J. M. Ellis, Oak Hill, W. Va.; Benjamin W. Clayton, Chicago; James W. Dorsey, Milwaukee; Bert McDonald, Los Angeles; Theodore M. Berry, Cincinnati; William L. Golden, Detroit and W. Justin Carter Jr., Harrisburg, Pa. 1-14-44

der, prominent Philadelphia attorney and newly elected secretary of the N.B.A., will have charge of the publication of the lawyers' directory. The last directory was published in 1932.

The president stated that the Baltimore convention had the largest attendance of any convention in the history of the association and that the interest of the law-

Judge Rivers Admitted To Membership In American Bar Association



City Court Justice FRANCIS E. RIVERS, shown above as he took the oath of office on his election, on Sunday, was elected a member of the American Bar Association by its Board of Governors in Chicago.

The election ended a long controversy over the organization's refusal to open its membership lists to Negroes. 3-4-44

Action on Judge Rivers' application was deferred by the board last August at the same time it admitted to membership Municipal Court Justice James S. Watson as the first Negro member admitted since 1912.

The refusal of the Association to act on Judge Rivers' application, made while he was Assistant District Attorney of New York County, caused charges of discrimination to be made by high members of the New York Judiciary, and resulted in the resignation of many prominent white lawyers from the Association in protest.